A DISCOURSE concerning the

FISHERY

WITHIN THE

BRITISH SEAS,

And other His

Majesties Dominions,

And more Especially, as it Relates to the

Trade of the COMPANY of the

Royal Fishery of England:

OFFERED TO

Consideration in Order to Subscriptions for Raising a Stock, for carrying on the Affairs thereof, upon the Terms Proposed.

EDINBURGH.

Reprinted by *George Mosman*, in the Year, 1695.

A Diſcourſe concerning the Fiſhery *within the* Britiſh *Seas, and other His Majeſties* Dominions; *and more Eſpecially as it relates to the Trade of the Company of the* Royal Fiſhery *of England; offered to* Conſideration, *in order to Subſcriptions for Raiſing a* Stock, *for carrying on the Affairs thereof, upon the Terms propoſed,* viz.

IT is not to be doubted, but that His Majeſty of Great *Brittain* and *Ireland* is the Abſolute Lord of the Seas flowing about, as an inſeparable Appendant of the *Britiſh* Empire. But, if any be to ſeek of Satisfaction therein, ſuch may have recourſe to a Treatiſe Written about the Year 1635. by that Famous and Learned Antiquary, *John Selden:* Entituled, *Mare Clauſum*, &c. Tranſlated into *Engliſh*, in *anno*, 1663. and Publiſhed under the Title of *Mare Clauſum*: Or, *The Right and Dominion of the Sea.*

If that be too Voluminous, the ſame is Epitomized in a leſſer Volume, and Entituled, *His Majeſties Propriety and Dominion in the* Britiſh *Seas, Aſſerted.* And the ſame is yet more ſuccinctly Evinced, by that Learned Knight, Sir *John Burroughs* (ſometime Keeper of the Records of the *Tower* of *London*) who hath not only cleared the Right, by Records, Hiſtories, and the Municipal

Laws of this Kingdom, in his Treatiſe written in *Anno*, 1633. But alſo other Important matters relating therunro, Publiſhed in *Anno*, 1651. A Treatiſe worthy every *Engliſh* Mans peruſal, who is deſirous to be Informed of, and concerned in the *Fiſhery*-Affairs.

But this is not our preſent Undertaking, farther than to ſet forth what Advantages may accrue to His Majeſty and theſe Kingdoms, by a ſpeedy and effectual ſetting upon, and engaging in the ſaid Trade; Which has been by many Treatiſes recommended to the People of theſe Nations, from the Conſideration of the Advantage and Facility of undertaking the ſame: As likewiſe, from the Abſolute neceſſity thereof, in order to the Safety and Well being both of the King and People. Which ſaid Treatiſes, or ſome of them, may be had at ſeveral Bookſellers Shops in the City and *Weſtminſter*; And, in order to the readier finding of them out, the Titles of ſome of them are herein after mentioned, *viz.*

Englands *way to* Win *Wealth and to* Employ *Ships and Mariners*; *Written by* Tobias Gentleman *and Printed in the Year.* 1614.

Brittains Buſs, *Written by* E. S. *and Printed* Anno, 1615. *Re-printed.* 1630.

Sir Walter Rawleighs *Obſervations, touching Trade and* Commerce *with the* Hollanders *and other Nations, in his* Adreſs *to His Majeſty, King* James *the* 1ſt. 1618.

Gerrad Maylynes *Treatiſe, called* Lex Mercatoria, *in his* 47*th. Chapter under the* Title *of, The* Fiſhing Trade, *Anno.* 1636.

The

The Seas Magazine opened, Written by a Perſon of Honour. Printed	1653.
The Trade and Fiſhing *of Great* Brittain *diſplayed, by Captain* John Smith.	1661.
The Royal Trade of Fiſhing, *Printed Anno,*	1662.
John Keymor's *Obſervations made upon the* Dutch Fiſhing, *about the Year* 1601. *Printed for Sir* Edward Ford. *Anno*	1664.
The Royal Fiſhing *Revived,* &c.	1670.
A *Diſcourſe of the Fiſhery, by Sir* Roger Leſtrange, *Anno.*	1674.
A *Diſcourſe of Salt and Fiſhery, Written by* John Collins,	1682.

Theſe things Premiſed, We ſhall in the next place ſet forth what has been done, in order to the Promoting and Encouraging this Trade, *viz.*

His late Majeſty King *CHARLES* the Second, (That an Affair of ſuch a National Concern might be the better promoted) was pleaſed by his Letters Patents under the great Seal of *England*, bearing Date the 25*th.* day of *September*, in the 29*th.* Year of His Reign; To Conſtitute His Royal Highneſs *James* Duke of *York*, *Thomas* Earl of *Danby* (now Duke of *Leeds*) and ſeveral other Perſons of Honour, and others therein named; and ſuch others as thereafter from time to time ſhould be admitted into their Company and Society, to be Traders and Adventurers with them; To be One body Politick and Corporate in Deed and in Name, By the Name of *the Company of the Royal Fiſhery of England*; To have perpetual Succeſſion: Thereby alſo giving and granting unto the

ſaid

ſaid Company and their Succeſſors, divers Beneficial Clauſes, Powers, Priviledges and Immunities; In order to the better Government of the ſaid Company, and Management of their Affairs: An abſtract whereof here followeth, *viz:*

To purchaſe Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments, and to diſpoſe thereof to the value of One Thouſand Pounds *per Annum.*

To have and uſe a Common Seal in and for all cauſes and buſineſſes of the ſaid Company.

To Aſſemble and meet together for carrying on their Affairs; And, particularly to Elect and appoint a Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy Governour, and 12. Committees Yearly for a Court of Aſſiſtants: Who, or any 3. or more of them, (whereof the Governour, Sub-Governour, or Deputy Governour, to be always one) are thereby Authorized and Impowered, according to ſuch Rules, Orders and Directions, as ſhould from time to time be made and given unto them, by the General Court of the ſaid Company; And for want of ſuch Orders, Rules and Directions, from time to time to Manage, Govern and Direct all the Affairs and Buſineſs of the ſaid Company, and all their Miniſters and Servants whatſoever; And Generally to Act and Do in all matters and things whatſoever as they ſhould judge neceſſary and Expedient to the well Ordering and Government of the ſaid Company, and the Improvement of their joint Stock and Trade: And to Do, Enjoy. Perform and Execute, all the ſaid Powers, Authorities, Priviledges, Acts and Things, in like Manner, to all intents and purpoſes, as if the ſame were done at, and by a General Court of the ſaid Company.

That

That before they entered upon the Execution of their respective Offices and Employments, they were to take their Corporal Oaths, for their true and Faithful Execution of their Respective Trusts and Places, before the Lord High Chancellour of *England*, or Chancellour of His Majesties Court of Exchequer. After which, the said Court of Assistants, or any three of them as aforesaid, are Authorized to Administer an Oath of Fidelity to the succeeding Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, and any Subsequent Members of the said Company; and to all inferiour Officers, Ministers and Servants, that shall be Chosen and Employed under them, in the service of the said Company.

The said Court of Assistants, or any 7. or more of them as aforesaid (as often as they shall find occasion) may Summon a General Court of the said Company; and no Assembly or Meeting of the said Company shall be deemed or accounted a General Court of the same Company, unless the Governour, Sub-Governour, or Deputy-Governour, six of the Committees and Five other Members of the said Company (at least) be present.

That such General Court may admit other Persons to be Members of the said Company; and may Encrease, Contract or divide their joynt Stock, as they shall think fit.

And may make, Ordain and Establish, such, and so many Good, Necessary, and Reasonable Laws, Ordinances, Orders, and Constitutions, as to them, or the greatest part of them, shall seem necessary and Convenient, for the good Government of the said Company, and their Affairs: And the same Laws, &c.

may

may put in Ure and Execution, and at their pleaſure Revoke, Alter, and make New.

They may impoſe and ſet ſuch Mulcts and Amerciaments upon the Breakers of ſuch Laws, as to them, in their Diſcretions ſhall be thought reaſonable, which ſhall be put in Execution by the Court of Aſſiſtants To and for the uſe of the Company, *&c.* Or, they may Remit, Pardon or Releaſe the ſame, upon the parties Submiſſion at their will and Pleaſures.

Upon Conviction of any Miſdemeanour, they may remove Offenders, and chooſe others in their places, at ſuch General Court of the Company.

That the Members of the Company may, from time to time, Grant, Transfer, and Aſſign, all, or any part of their Reſpective Stocks in the ſaid Company; and the Procede and Profit thereof.

They may from time to time, Build, Rigg, Man, Victual and ſet out to Sea, ſuch, and ſo many Doggers, Buſſes, and other Fiſhing Veſſels, as by the Company or Court of Aſſiſtants ſhall be thought fit and convenient.

They may Fiſh in, and upon all the Coaſts, Eſtuaries, Inlets, Creeks, Arms of the Sea, Nooks, Lakes, and Publick Rivers, of, within, and belonging to His Majeſties Kingdoms of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, or any of them; or any other of His Majeſties Dominions, whereof the Fiſhings are not already Granted, Appropriated or belonging to ſome other particular or private perſon or perſons, Bodies politick or Corporate: And likewiſe in, and upon the Main Sea, or any part thereof,

They

They have Granted unto them, free and full Liberty, to carry and Transport their Fish, and Oyl made of Fish, to all Ports, Places and Markets, both in *England* and beyond the Seas; and also to Sell the same there, for ready Money, or by way of Barter and Exchange, for any other Commodities.

They are Impowred to Erect Store-Houses, Granaries, Ware-Houses and Work-Houses; and to dry and amend their Nets, and make Ropes; and also to build and make Wharfs and Docks, in, upon, and out of any of the Wastes, Commons, or Waste-Grounds of His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, adjoyning unto, or upon any Publick Rivers or Seas, within any of His Majesties Dominions, without paying or rendering any Rent or duty whatsoever unto His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors for the same.

Also, that all and every the Masters, Skippers and Steersmen of the several Doggers, Busses, and other Fishing Vessels of the Company, and their Ships Crews, Mariners, Fisher-Men, and others Employed by the said Company, in and about their said Fishery; as well Foreigners, as Natives and Subjects, *&c.* And during their respective Employments, shall not be Impannel'd, Summoned, or Sworn, or compelled by any Sheriff, Bayliff, or other Officer of His Majesty, His Heirs or Successors, to serve on any Juries or Inquests, at *Westminster*, the Assizes, Sessions, or Elsewhere.

They have also Granted to them by His said Majesty, Twenty Pounds for each and every respective Dogger which they then had, and were owners of; and which within, and during the term and space of 7. Years from the date of the said Patent, they and their

Succeſſors, ſhould Build, or cauſe to be Built in *England*, or any other His Majeſties Dominions; The ſame to be payed Quarterly, out of the Cuſtomes within the Port of *London*, &c. without any other or further Warrant or Direction, from His Majeſty, His Heirs or Succeſſors, in that behalf &c.

They have alſo Granted unto them, and their Succeſſors, All and ſingular Priviledges in the City of *London*, as fully and freely as any Company of Merchants Eſtabliſhed by Letters Patents, or Charters, heretofore Granted by His Majeſty, or any of His Predeceſſors, at preſent do or may have, Uſe or Enjoy; Alſo, That all and ſingular Admirals, Vice-Admirals, General Commanders, Captains, Mayors, Sheriffs, Juſtices of the Peace, Cuſtomers, Collectors, Searchers, Controlers, Wayters, and all other Officers, Miniſters, Liege Men, and Subjects of His Majeſty, His Heirs and Succeſſors whatſoever, from time to time and at all times thereafter ſhall be, in and by all things Ayding, Helping and Aſſiſting, unto the ſaid Company, and their Succeſſors, their Factors, Agents and Servants, and every of them, in the Execution and Enjoyment of the Premiſes, as well on Land as by Sea, whenſoever they or any of them ſhall be thereunto deſired, as they tender His Majeſties good will and Pleaſure, and will Anſwer the contrary at their Peril.

And laſtly, His Majeſty doth Grant, That theſe His Majeſties Letter Patents, & all & ſingularr the Grants, Clauſes, and things therein contained, and expreſſed, ſhould be, and continue firm, valid, good ſufficient and effectual in the Law; and ſhould be conſtrued, Reputed,

puted and taken, as well in the meaning, as to the Words and Expreſſions of the ſame, moſt Favourably, benignely and Beneficially, to and for the beſt benefit and advantage of the ſaid Company and their Succeſſors: Any Omiſſion, Incertainty, Defect, Imperfection, or Contrariety in the ſaid Letters Patents contained; Or any Law, Statute, Act, Ordinance, Proclamation, Proviſion, or Reſtriction, or other cauſe matter or thing whatſoever, to the contrary thereof, in any wiſe Notwithſtanding, *&c.* As in and by the ſaid Letters Patents (*Relation* being thereunto had for the better certainty thereof) may more fully and at large appear.

Now, a few things touching the Proceedings of the Company thereupon; Briefly, viz.

THE Company thus Eſtabliſhed, Divers particular Members thereof advanced and Paid in thereupon, (at Firſt) a Stock of 10980 *l.* and after that, about 1600. *l.* more; All which was laid out, in Buying, Equipping, and ſetting forth Fiſhing Veſſels. *&c.* And Employing them in Proſecuting the ſaid *Fiſhery*-Affairs. But that Undertaking was rendred In-effectual, and their ſaid Stock Exhauſted and Conſumed: (Not by any thing ariſing from the nature of the thing it ſelf (as is apparent by the Experience the ſaid Company had in having taken and Imported in One of their Doggers, in a Voyage of Three Weeks, Thirty Two Thowſand Cods; and pro-

 portionably

portionably thereunto, in ſeveral other of their Veſſels. And, by the Advantage made of the like undertaking by our Neighbours; which ſhall be demonſtrated by ſome Narrative thereof, with particular Enumeration of their Succeſſes, in what follows) But, By that ill Juncture of Affairs, within the *Dutch* and *Spainards* were Engaged in War with the *French*, who ſeized the Veſſels and goods of the Company, as *Dutch*, Being ſome, or moſt of them *Dutch*-Built, and Mann'd by *Dutch*-Men: And principally, Becauſe The Stock was not ſufficient to Support ſo great an Undertaking, in caſe of any Miſ-adventure. Whereupon, The proſecuting of the ſaid Affair and Trade was under ſuſpence for ſome time, and not thought fit to be Engaged in, but with a more conſiderable Stock: which was afterwards endeavoured, By a New Subſcription Deſigned and Agreed by the then Company, to the Value of *Sixty* Thouſand Pound; But, *By* Reaſon of the Death of His ſaid late Majeſty, King *Charles* the 2d, and the Troubles Enſueing, the ſame was thought fit to be ſuſpended for ſome farther time. And, The Company, about 3. Years ſince (conceiving it might be ſeaſonably uudertaken) Aſſembled for putting their former Deſign in Execution; And, Finding Encouragement from the readineſs of divers Perſons to joyn therein, upon certain Propoſals for a Subſcription; ſuch as (in caſe of like Loſſes of ſome few Veſſels) the ſaid Affair might notwithſtanding be carried on, without the diſcouragement of being to ſeek of a Stock ready: They have been waiting ever ſince for a fitting ſeaſon, wherein they might Humbly Addreſs themſelves to His Majeſty, and both the Honourable Houſes of

par-

Parliament, for their further Encouraging this under-taking. And in the Interim, Have ſpent their time, and taken much pains in and about the conſideration and preparation of ſuch a Conſtitution, Laws and Rules, for Management and Governing of their Affairs, And Framing ſuch Propoſals of Terms and Conditions, for Admitting perſons into the ſaid Company, to be Mem-bers, Traders and Adventurers with them therein, as, (by diſcourſing others) they hope will be ſufficiently encouraging to Subſcriptions for the raiſing ſuch Stock for that purpoſe; And whereby His Majeſty and the Parliament may be the better ſatisfied, That Perſons of Honour, Intereſt, Eſtates, and Publick Spirits are joyntly become engaged to carry on the ſame, as far as the nature of ſuch an Affair, will admit. The Company have there-upon thought fit to cauſe, as well the ſaid Letters Pa-tents, as the ſaid Conſtitution, and terms of Subſcrip-tion, to be fairly ingroſs'd at large in Books, and Lodged in convenient Places within the City of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, to be peruſed, Conſidered, and Subſcribed accordingly.

And, Foraſmuch as, All have not the conveniency of reſorting to ſuch places, and, that the Affair may become as National, as may be; The Company have thought fit, likewiſe, to prepare, and to cauſe the Ab-ſtracts thereof to be printed and publiſhed; To the end, all Perſons may have the Contents thereof before them, and may apply themſelves to make ſuch Subſcripti-ons (at the places appointed for that purpoſe) as they ſhall think fit, on thoſe Terms: Which are as followeth, *viz.*

First

First, The Abstract of the said Constitution:

Entituled,

A Constitution, Model, or Frame and Method for Government and Managing of the Trade and Affairs of The Company of the Royal Fishery of *England; As also some Rules and Laws, necessary to be observed by the Persons concern'd in the Improvement of the Stock,* &c.

Sect. 1. THAT the Chief Government of the Company, shall be in and consist of a Governour, Sub.Governour, Deputy-Governour, and 12. Committees (whereof 4. to be called Directors, and 8. Masters) And also of 15. Assistants, *viz.* To each of them, One. Also, 8. Wardens, and 25. Commissioners or Agents for *Scotland* and *Ireland*, And as many of the other Members of the Company as shall from time to time be agreed to be admitted; who, or any 15. or more of them, (together with the Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, and their Respective Assistants, or One of them to be present; 5. or more of the Committees, 5. or more the Assistants, and 5. or more of the other Members of the Company) are to have the chief power of making Laws, and ordering the whole Affairs of the Company, in their General Courts.

Sect. 2. That there shall be a Court of Assistants, to consist of the Governour, Sub.Governour, Deputy

ty-Governour; the 12. Commitees, and their 15. Aſſiſtants; who, or any 7. or more of them (whereof the Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, or their reſpective Aſſiſtants to be alwayes One: 3. of the ſaid Committees, and 3. of the ſaid Aſſiſtants are to have the chief Directing and Managing of the Affairs of the company, By their Orders: And, For want of ſuch Orders, may Do and Execute all things, as the general Court may.

Sect. 3. That for the more diſtinct and Regular Management of the ſaid Affairs; The ſaid Court of Aſſiſtants are divided into 4 Chambers, *viz.*

(1.) *The Fiſhery-Chamber*; Which is to conſiſt of the Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, and their reſpective Aſſiſtants, or One of them One Director and his Aſſiſtant, 2. Maſters and their Aſſiſtants, and 2. Wardens: Who or any 3. or more of them to be a *Quorum*, are to Act and Execute by Rules and Inſtructions under the Seal of the Company, and not otherwiſe.

(2.) *The Stock or Store-Chamber*, To conſiſt of like Number, and to Act by like Inſtructions.

(3.) *The Theaſury or Caſh Chamber*, To conſiſt of like Number, and to Act by like Inſtructions.

(4) *The Accompt Chamber*, To conſiſt of like Number, and to Act by like Inſtructions,

Sect. 4. There ſhall be other 28. Members of the Company, who ſhall be called Agents, or Officers, and be employed in the reſpective 4. Chambers, as they ſhall be directed by the Court of Aſſiſtants.

Sect. 5. That the Nomination and Election of the Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, and

12.

12. Committees shall be in, and by the general Court Annually; Save that not above 5. of them shall be remov'd in any one Year but for just Causes expresst, &c. The 8. Wardens, and other Agents, Officers, or Commissioners, for *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, to be Nominated by the Court of Assistants, or Sixteen of them.

Sect. 6. That within 20. days after Publication of Subscriptions of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds, A General Court shall be called, for Election of a Sub-Governour, or Deputy-Governour, and 4. Committees by the New Subscribers: And afterwards, Elections to be made on the 30*th.* of *November* Yearly: wherein not above 5, Committees to be removed as aforesaid.

Sect. 7, The Articles, Termes of Conditions, touching the Admitting of Persons into the Company Are confirmed, as a part of the Constitution, Inviolably to be observed.

Sect. 8. That all Subscribers who shall not be chosen for Managers, &c. Shall be denominated as Traders or Adventurers; And their respective shares both as to Profit and Loss, Yearly stated and determined, as other the Stock of the Company.

Sect. 9. That no Member of the Company after the 30*th November* next after Subscriptions are Compleated, shall have any Vote in Elections, or Making Laws, &c. who shall not have Five Hundred Pounds Subscribed, &c. in the Stock; Nor any person be admitted a Member of the Court of Assistants who shall not have One Thousand Pound Subscribed, &c.

Sect. 10

Sect. 10. One Tenth part of the clear neat Profits is appointed to be ſet apart for bearing the Charges of the Company, Court of Aſſiſtants and 4. Chambers *&c.* Alſo to pay Salaries, *&c.* to the Managing Members, Officers or Servants: And the diſtributions and proportions of each are thereby ſettled.

Sect 11. The Accompts of Profit and Loſs are to be Yearly ſtated, by the Officers in the Accompt-Chamber Each Year to end on the 10*th.* of *June.* The Court of Aſſiſtants are to Examine and Report the ſame to the general Court, on the 10*th.* of *September* following, and Nine of them to ſign the briet Account thereof; And each ones ſhare of profits to be paid amongſt the Perſons concerned.

Sect 12. In caſe of Loſs in any one Year, The Stock is to be made good out of the next, before any Dividend or Apportionment to Managers, Officers, *&c.* Save that, Servants Salaries or Wages of 30. *l per Annum* and under, may be advanced out of the Stock, and Re-imburſed out of the next Years profits; And in caſe the profits of any firſt Years ſhall not Amount to 100 *l.* each ſhare, the ſame ſhall alſo be made up out of the After years profits aſſigned for that purpoſe.

Sect. 13. Mentions, In what caſes Perſons may be diſmiſt their Offices and Employments; And, that the general Court or Court of Aſſiſtants Judgement ſhall be Final for the determination thereof.

Sect. 14. Sets the Fines on ſuch as ſhall abſent themſelves, from their attendance when Summoned, Or upon Adjournments; Or for not attending ſo many Hours as ſhall be agreed upon: Unleſs in caſe of Corporal

 Illneſs,

Illneſs, or Licence from their reſpective Chambers.

Sect. 15. Directs the Cuſtody of the Larger Seal, as alſo of the Letters Patents, Deeds, Evidences of Lands granted to the Company, to be kept Locked up in the Treaſury Chamber, under two Locks; whereof the Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, and Director, to have the Keys of One, and their reſpective Aſſiſtants of the other: Who are to produce the ſame upon all occaſions of the Company or Court of Aſſiſtants. Alſo, that the Truſtees, and each Chamber, The Secretary of the Company, and the reſpective Commiſſioners or Agents for *Scotland*, and *Ireland* to have one of the leſſer Seals, to be uſed by them reſpectively in the Companies Service..

Sect. 16. If any differences ſhall ariſe between the Members of the Court of Aſſiſtants, or ſeveral Chambers relating to the companies Affairs, They are to be determined by the general Court, *&c.* And the refuſers to ſubmit thereto, to be diſmiſt their Offices and Employments.

Sect. 17. The Seven Truſtees are named, And 3. of the other Aſſiſtants; The other 5. Aſſiſtants are to be Elected by them, Out of ſuch as ſhall become Subſcribers to the New ſtock of the Company: Their after Nomination and ſucceſſion is alſo agreed to be in, by, and amongſt themſelves, or the Major part of the whole Fifteen.

Sect. 18. The Governour, Sub-Governour, Deputy-Governour, Committees, Aſſiſtants, and all Subſcribers, before they be admitted into any Truſt, or Office in the Company, are to declare their approbation of and acquieſceing in the the Conſtitution, and all after

after Constitutions, Laws and Rules of the Company: as is more at large therein expressed,

Secondly, The Abstract of the forementioned Articles, Terms, or Conditions, touching Subscriptions: Entituled,

Articles, Terms or Conditions upon which All and Singular, Person and Persons of what Quality so ever within the Kingdoms of England, Scotland, *and* Ireland &c, *May be admitted into the Company of the* Royal Fishery of England, *or be Traders or adventurers with them.*

1. THAT whosoever shall Subscribe, and pay in any sum or sums of Money towards a joynt Stock for carrying on the Trade of the said Company shall be Admitted into the same: And have and receive all the Benefits and Advantages thereof, Subject to the Constitution, Laws and Rules of the said Company: And these Articles, Terms, and Conditions, &c.

2. That the Sum designed to be at present Subscribed, be *Three Hundred Thousand Pounds*. Whereof, *One Hundred Thousand Pownds* by the surviving Patentees, their Heirs and Assigns, and the other present Members: And *Two Hundred Thousand Pownds* more by other Persons. The same to be paid into the Treasury of the said Company, in manner following, *viz*, The first Tenth part thereof to be paid within *Thirty*

Dayes from and after Notice or Publication of the compleating the Subscriptions of the said 300000 l, or of 150000 l, at least, in part thereof. One Tenth part more within 3, Months next after their respective first Payments; And the other Remaining Eight Tenth parts, By Eight equal next successive Quarterly Payments.

3. That One Tenth part of each Sum so Subscribed, shall be appropriated to and for the use of the said Trustees, And of such other persons as they shall judge have heretofore been, or may hereafter be useful for, or in promoting the Interest and Service of the Company, without Account. So as the same nevertheless shall be and remain in the Stock, for carrying on the Trade thereof: And the remaining Nine parts, To and for the Sole use and benefit of the Respective Subscribers, their Executors, Administrators, and Assigns.

4. That whatsoever further Sums shall, at any time hereafter, be thought fit by the Company to be Subscribed and paid in, for increasing the said Stock, shall be in like manner subject to the payment of the like Tenth part, &c. for, or toward the Re-imbursement of the Subscribers said Tenth part of the said 300. Thousand Pounds.

5. That whosoever shall Subscribe and pay in his first Payment, and shall not make his second, or any after Payments, by the respective times before Limited, shall forfeit his first payment to the use of the Company; and have Credit only for such after payments as he shall make.

6. That all shares or sums amounting to 50 l, and

Assignments thereof, shall be Entred and Registred and Certificates thereof Exemplyfied under the Seal be given for the same, to such Persons as shall desire it.

7. That no Person shall be hereafter admitted a Member of the Company, unless he shall at the time of his Subscription, declare his approbation of, and submitting to these Articles, and engage himself to observe and keep the same Inviolably: And also All such Constitutions, Laws and Rules of the Company as they have or shall make for the Management and Regulation of their Trade, pursuant to the Letters Patents, and the present Constitution.

T*hirdly*, For the present further Encouragement of all Persons that shall engage herein; The Company hath also thought fit to cause to be subjoyned, A Brief Account of what they find written by several Persons in Commendation of such an Undertaking, As well for the Honour, Strength and Security of his Majesty, as the private Advantages of the particular persons Subscribing: Grounded especially on an Estimate of the good success of our Neighbours, in such an Undertaking; who have experienced, and proclaimed this *Fishery* to Over-Ballance in Riches and Glory The Golden Mines of the *Indies*: Which, carries with it the vertue of a Demonstration to such as shall Consider the same: Which Accompt thereof hath been collected and tendred to the Company, and hath been also Examined, Considered and Allowed by them, under the Title following, *viz.*

Some

Some Preliminary Conſiderations and Advertiſments towards Inducing and Encouraging, The Company of the Royal Fiſhery of *England*, &c. *By a joynt Stock to carry on the Trade and Affairs thereof*, viz.

I. THE Advantages thereof may have Demonſtration and Evidence, By the great power, Wealth and Riches, which others have arrived unto thereby; In Multitudes of ſhips and ſea-men Employed therein, &c.

(1.) In ſhipping, which is Eſtimated to be at leaſt 10000. Veſſels, employed in Fiſhing and Trading therewith.

(2.) In Marriners, and perſons employed thereby; computed by a moderate proportion of Ten for each Veſſel, (one with another) which comes to at leaſt One Hundred Thouſand perſons, beſides Men of War.

(3.) In Towns and Fortifications: upon which vaſt ſums of Money have been Expended, to their ſtrength and glory.

(4.) In power abroad; whereby they have gained other Conſiderable Countries, Iſlands and Dominions: Even in both the *Indies*.

II. Their Wealth alſo is conſiderable, in the particulars following, *viz.*

(1.) Their publick Revenue, conſiſting of at leaſt 300000*l per Annum*, by the ſole Cuſtomes of Herring, Beſides by all other Fiſhings and Trade.

(2.) Their Trade by Fiſh, Enables them to Deal and

and Truck with all Nations for their commodities and bring away their Moneys.

(3). Their private Wealth advanced to many Millions Yearly, amongſt their Merchants, Artificers, &c. By the Fiſhing Trade only.

(4.) Their Proviſions and Stores of all ſorts, ſufficient for ſupply both of themſelves in War and Peace; and of their Neighbours, to great advantage, &c.

Whereas, on the Contrary,

(1.) We have not one Ship of War Built or Maintained thereby.

(2). Nor Mariners bred up, or very few comparatively, of equal Skill, Hardineſs or Strength, for Labour and Service.

(3.) Nor Towns nor Fortifications, But all our Fiſhing-Towns almoſt decayed.

(4). Nor Trade by Fiſh conſiderable, but Buy, and are ſupplyed by our Neighbours at ſo dear Rates, as none but Perſons of great Eſtates can eat Fiſh, &c.

(5.) The Decay of many Manufactures relating to that Trade, *viz.* Of ſail-Cloth, Rops, Cables, Anchors, Nets, &c.

(6) The conſumption of our Coyn ſent abroad, for theſe neceſſaries, &c. which, by this Trade would be prevented, and coin exceedingly increaſed, &c.

Queſt. If it be Demanded: What advantages may be made to His Majeſty by His undertaking, Incouraging and Protecting this Fiſhery Trade, in Future, within and upon his own Dominions, &c.

Anſ.

Answer. In general, By this His Majesty may be Rendred the Greatest Monarch in the World, for Command and Wealth.

2. All the forementioned Advantages made by others may be ours; and we become the most Opulent and Flourishing Nation under the Heavens.

In Particular, we should be provided with,

1. Encrease of Ships and Multitudes of Mariners and those of the most skilful; And hardiest for Labour, Strength, and Courage.

2. Our Towns and Fortifications, Especially such as have been destroyed, or neglected through the Decay of the *Fishery* and Manufactures, will become Re edified, and Populated.

3. Our Power Abroad as well as at Home Will be upheld, and new Territories planted, and secured against Attempts or Conquests by Forreigners.

4. Our Publick Revenues Augmented, Even to a sufficiency of preserving His Majesties Sovereignity and Dominion of these Seas against all Encroachments.

5. Our Trade will be vastly spread and encreased, in all parts of the World, by the Fish wherewith His Majesties Seas and Dominions do abound: Even to many unknown, or at least untraded parts.

6. Our private Trade will afford vast Wealth to our Merchants, employ our Poor and Idle People in the Manufactures attending this Trade; which will also both Cloath and Feed them: For, Their Earnings will

will enable them to buy both, &c. and save the vast collections made every Year for their maintenance in Idleness and Sloth.

7. We may become the Mart of all Trade; and furnished at all times with Magazines, and Stores of all sorts both for War and Peace: For our selves and our Neighbours, &c. Being better scituated for Markets than any other Trading Nation whatsoever: Having this Additional Staple Commodity to our other Manufactures, wherewith to procure the same, &c.

Quest. If it be Inquired, How shall this be disposed and Accomplished so as to prevent former Miscarriages and Discouragements?

Answ. 1 By making a present Entrance upon this Trade, By *The Company of the Royal Fishery of England* &c, And incourageing such as shall contrive and diligently promote the same

2. By a Large stock proposed to be advanced by Subscriptions, for carrying on the same, to the outmost Extent it will bear.

3. By His Majesties and the Parliaments further Grants of Aide, Countenance and Encouragements to the Company; such as may be propounded with little or no Diminution to His Majesties present Revenues, or Grievance to the People.

4. By Nobles, Members of Parliament, and Council, subscribing and countenancing subscriptions for the inlargeing this stock, in their respective Countreys.

Obj. It it be objected: 'Tis a time of War, and a stock may be soon lost if it should be now undertaken.

Answ. 1. It may be hoped the War will have an end: But,

2. There are several things requisite to be prepared and provided: And several Manufactures, Relating to the Trade, and to be Erected, and Persons to be Trained up and imployed therein, for some time, before it can be set on Foot (after the Stock is Provided) in which the Stock, as it comes in gradually, will be improved, for the present to the Adventurers Advantage, for their Encouragement to begin the same.

3. There are several Fishing places so scituated, as that they may be made use of very profitably, without considerable if any Hazard, Loss or Damage; for that, some Vessels will seldom need to Lye or Labour out of sight and protection of our own Shores.

4. If some Vessels should be lost, the Stock being great, and managed by a Corporation for a joynt Accompt, The Damage would scarce be felt; and soon Recovered in so gainful a Trade.

5. A small Convoy or Guard, on such Coasts will secure them.

6. The Letters Patents provide for Guards and Convoys.

Obj. We cannot Build our Vessels, or Sail them, nor Manage our Affairs to that Advantage, that our Neighbours can, *&c.*

Answ. 1. Many such Objections have been cast in, and probably will be revived to discourage the undertaking; But, Satisfaction may be given touching those Vulgar Errors, were it seasonable to expose the Methods and Ways which the Company have under

Con-

Conſideration, for obviating of them: And the ſame is in a great Meaſure already done, By Sir *Roger L'e Strange*, in his forementioned Treatiſe.

2. It is the Nations Intereſt to Aſſiſt and Encourage the undertaking by ſuch means as have been ſuggeſted already from the Letters Patents; And which we are well Aſſured the Parliament will Super-add to Our Stock, for the rendering our Charge in Building, *&c.* as eaſie as may be.

3. The Parliament (in and by the Act for ſettling the Duty of Salt on his Majeſty) hath already provided for allowance of our having the Charge on Salt to be Repayed, *viz.* 2*s.* 6*d per* Barrel for all that ſhall be Exported. Beſides, what hath been further done by ſeveral other Acts of Parliament formerly made concerning the Fiſhery, whereby the Company may be enabled to out-do them in all points Relating to that Matter.

Queſt. What will be the Ordinary Charge of Building and Equipping a Fiſhing-Veſſel of about 70. Tun for the firſt Year; and ſo, afterwards for 20. Years, in Repairing and Amending the ſame: And alſo the ordinary annual profits thereof, over and above the Charges, including Victuals, &c. For each Fiſhing Seaſon?

Anſ. None may preſume on what depends on Gods Providence and Bleſſing in the prudent Managing of this Affair, more than of other Martime and Merchantly Adventures. But, Computing the particulars by the Ordinary profit and Loſs from others obſervations and Experience, It may be Reaſonably expected ſuch Enquiries may be thus Reſolved, *viz.*

	l.	s.	d.
First. The Charge of first Building, Setting out, and Wages for One Year, Computed to Amount to about ——	1332:	09:	08
The produce of that Years Fishing, is ordinarily Estimated at, about ——	2250:	00.	00
Consequently The Neat profit of the first Year, (all Charges deducted) will be ——	0917.	10.	04
Secondly, The After yearly Charges for 20. Years (all Charges deducted) will be *Communibus Annis*) but —	0928.	19.	08
Consequently the Neat profit of each After Year (and so for 20 Years) will be *per Annum*, ——	1321.	00	04

All which may be made appear by the particulars Estimate following, viz.

	l.	s.	d.
THE Building of such a Dogger or Buss will Cost about ——	0403.	10.	00

	l.	s.	d.
The Furniture, with Necessaries common to other Ships, *viz*: Victuals, &c.	217.	19.	02

The

The Nets, Tools, &c Proper for a 12 Ms Fishery, *viz.* For Herring,	242,09,06	256,19,06	
The Hooks and Lines for Cod and Ling	014,10,00		0928,19,08
For both Fishings, Casks and salt		221,00,00	
For Wages for 6 Months, or 24 Weeks for the Herring Fishing season	088,15,00		
For 7 other Months or 28 Weeks, for the Cod and Ling season	103,02,06	233,01,00	
For Wages, Gratuities, &c. at Land, for General Officers, &c. Yearly	041,03,06		

So

So the Total Charge of Building and Equipping one Buſs or Dogger for the firſt Year, will be, as above — — —	1332: 09: 08

Whereof the 233 *l.* 10 *s.* above mentioned is not disburſ'd till return of the Veſſel.

The produce of this Veſſels Employment for one Year is Ordinarily computed thus, viz.

One Hundred Laſts of Herrings, Each containing 10. Barrels, worth *de claro*	1000: 00: 00	
Twenty five Thouſand Cods and Lings, worth at leaſt *de claro* — —	1250: 00: 00	2250: 00: 00
Out of which ſaid 2250 *l.* deducting the Charges of Building, *&c.* which Amounts, as above, to — — —		1332: 09: 08:
The Neat produce thereof for the firſt Year, will be, as above — —		0917: 10: 04
The Next Years produce, computed at about — — — — — —		2250: 00: 00
Out of which, deducting the ſame full charges (except for building) which Amounts to about — — — —		0928: 19: 08
The ſtanding neat Yearly profit for the ſaid 20. Years, will be (*per Ann.*) about		1321: 00: 04

But

But ſuppoſing (for Round reckoning) yet not admitting, That the 321 *l.* 00*s.* 04 *d. per Annum* be ſtruck off, and deducted thereout, For Extraordinary Loſſes, Damages, Hazards and Expences, For buildings, Ship-Wrecks, Repairs, Ware and Tar, &c, There will ſtill Remain of clear profits, *per Annum*, for every ſuch Veſſel 1000 *l.*

One half whereof were ſufficient Gain, For Encouraging the Undertaking: Yea one Quarter.

FINIS.

FINIS